

# Wabash Plain Dealer

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**WEDNESDAY,**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather **40** | **23**




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Do you have a passion for writing, photography and local sports? The Wabash Plain Dealer is now accepting applications for paid stringers for the upcoming winter sports season. To apply, email your writing and photography clips, cover letter, resume and list of references to [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).

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## Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 10 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24 and Wednesday, March 24 at

See **PULSE**, page A4

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# Hoosiers 60 and over now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine

Over 1,800 people have now been fully vaccinated at Wabash County site

**By ROB BURGESS**  
 Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Tuesday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) announced the long-awaited news that Hoosiers age 60 and over

are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine.

This expansion of eligibility makes the vaccine available to an additional 432,000 Hoosiers.

“Due to limited vaccine supplies nationally, Indiana

has prioritized healthcare workers, first responders and those who are most vulnerable in its vaccine rollout,” stated the ISDH on Tuesday.

Individuals age 60 and older account for more than 22 percent of the state’s population but 64 percent of the COVID-19 hospitalizations and 93.3 percent of

the deaths.

“Additional groups will be added as more vaccine becomes available,” stated the ISDH.

To date, more than 60 percent of eligible Hoosiers have scheduled an appointment to be vaccinated against COVID-19. As of Monday, 893,246 Hoosiers have received the first dose

of vaccine, and 440,028 are fully vaccinated.

On Thursday at the Honeywell Center’s vaccination clinic, volunteer and Southwood High School student Monica Hobson, said they were mostly administering second doses for those who have had the first

See **VACCINE**, page A4

# Contemplating a new jail



Photos by Rob Burgess / Plain Dealer

The county has issued a request for proposals to select an architect or engineer for the new facility to be located at 1335 Manchester Ave.

## Local leaders address public concerns during a special meeting Thursday

**By ROB BURGESS**  
 Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The prospect of a new facility for the Wabash County Jail has been looming over local leaders, and a special meeting Thursday at the Heartland REMC Community Room allowed them to address taxpayers and answer their concerns.

Chairman and District 4 councilmember Kyle Bowman said the “jail has been a point of discussion for quite a few years now.”

“I think at this point we don’t have an alternate option but to build a jail,” said Sheriff Ryan Baker.

Baker said the current facility at 79 W. Main St. was built in 1979 rated for 60 beds. That number was later moved to 72, where it sits today.

Baker said in 2016, there



A special meeting Thursday at the Heartland REMC Community Room allowed local leaders to address taxpayers and answer their concerns regarding the proposed new Wabash County Jail.

were around 120 inmates on the average daily population, with that number spiking to around 176 inmates per day in 2019.

Baker said starting in 2012, Wabash County started hous-

ing inmates at taxpayer expense in the Miami, Elkhart and Tipton County jails, and occasionally Whitley or Noble county jails, depending on needs.

“The issue is the safety and security of the inmates and the staff,” said Baker. “When the numbers are what they are, it becomes a safety and security issue for everyone.”

Baker said they currently have 31 people enrolled in treatment court, 98 at community corrections, 194 at pretrial release and 881 on probation.

“Any one of those folks could be in Wabash County Jail, but they are in programs to keep them out of jail,” said Baker. “Anyone on probation could violate. There is programming outside of just incarcerating.”

Baker said they currently don’t have the space to conduct any program inside the jail itself.

“If there’s an open space in the Wabash County Jail,

See **JAIL**, page A4

# Pursuit leads to felony charges

Sterling H. Armstrong, 29, of Gas City, arrested late Sunday

**By ROB BURGESS**  
 Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

What started as a vehicle pursuit and became a foot chase ended in felony charges for one suspect late Sunday.

Wabash Police Department (WPD) Officer Drew Bender allegedly “observed a suspicious vehicle pull into a local factory and turn off it headlights” at around 11:59 p.m. Sunday, said WPD public information officer Capt. Matt A. Benson on Monday.

Benson said Bender reported he turned around to check on the vehicle and the vehicle fled at excessive speed.

“Bender attempted to conduct a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle and it failed to stop for the police,” said Benson.

Benson said Bender reported the vehicle pursuit went through the city, onto Highway 24, back into the city, through the city, exiting the city on Indiana 13 and back in the city of Indiana 15.

Benson said WPD units deployed stop sticks near Wabash Street and Shady Lane.

“The suspect vehicle did hit the stop sticks and continued to drive stopping near Wabash and Miami streets,” said Benson.

Benson said the suspect then fled on foot from the vehicle, and WPD officers and Wabash County Sheriff’s Department deputies “quickly apprehended the suspect Sterling H. Armstrong, 29, of Gas City.

Benson said Armstrong was taken to Wabash County Jail.

See **PURSUIT**, page A4

# Bridge No. 143 replacement funds approved by INDOT

Wabash County awarded over \$1.5M for project Monday

**By ROB BURGESS**  
 Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

A controversial local bridge project has been funded by the despite complaints from some

local residents.

On Monday, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) strategic communications director Scott Manning said Wabash County was awarded \$1,515,200 for the replacement of Bridge No. 143 on County Road East 1050 South over Grant Creek.

“Generally on bridge project funding requests, INDOT

makes the determination based on the condition ratings of the bridge and the traffic volume the bridge carries,” said Manning. “This helps to drive funding to bridge replacement or rehabilitation project that has the greatest need and will have the best impact on improving the state’s overall bridge ratings.”

On Monday, Wabash Coun-

ty Highway Department supervisor Cole Wyatt said the funding would completely replace the bridge “and adjust the elevation of the east approach.”

Manning said the local amount was part of the \$100.8 million in federal transportation funding that was being awarded to 54 cities, towns and counties in rural portions


of Indiana to invest in local road and bridge improvements as well as sidewalk and trail projects. Combined with local funds, approximately \$124.9 million is being invested in infrastructure in communities receiving funds.

Manning said in addition to the local bridge project,

See **BRIDGE**, page A4



**Erica Markiewicz**  
Registered Representative



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LOCAL BRIEFS

Wabash Marketplace announces March First Friday details

Organized by Wabash Marketplace, First Friday takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 5 in downtown Wabash, according to executive director Andrea Zwiebel.

This free event features downtown shopping, food, live music and children’s activities.

“First Friday in March will be filled with celebration,” said Zwiebel. “The theme is ‘Lucky & Lit,’ honoring St. Patrick’s Day and the city of Wabash being the first electrically lighted city in the world.”

Zwiebel said Trolley No. 85 will be running including stops at Veteran’s Plaza, Eagles Theatre, The Depot, YMCA and the Charley Creek Inn Miami Entrance.

“A friendly reminder that Wabash County is “yellow” according to the Indiana State Department of Health

(ISDH),” said Zwiebel. “Face coverings and social distancing are required in downtown Wabash.”

For more information, visit [wabashmarketplace.org/first-friday](http://wabashmarketplace.org/first-friday).

Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR to hold March meeting

Wabash County Frances Slocum Chapter of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room, 1241 Manchester Ave., according to regent Barbara Amiss.

The program will be given by Brenda Ramseier, on her painting of the women suffragist and the 19th Amendment.

Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend.

DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of

age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution. Those having questions about their family history lineage information may contact [www.dar.org](http://www.dar.org) or Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Amiss at 260-982-4376.

Wabash VFW Post No. 286 to host tenderloin dinner Friday

The Wabash Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 is scheduled to host a tenderloin dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford.

The menu will include hand-breaded tenderloin, potato salad and coleslaw.

The cost is \$9 per person. The event is open to the public, Carry-out will be available.

The event will be following COVID-19 guidelines.

For more information, call 260-563-2463.

WPD accepting probationary police officer applications

The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. Friday, Feb. 26

STAFF REPORT

The Wabash Police Department (WPD) is accepting applications for the position of a probationary police officer, according to public information officer Capt. Matt A. Benson.

Benson said applications, job description and agility test requirements may be picked up in person from

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Friday, Feb. 26 at 1340 Manchester Ave.

Benson said the benefits package includes a probationary salary of \$49,319; career progression incentive pay, longevity and promotional opportunities through the rank structure; take-home car after two years residing within Wabash city limits, comprehensive medical, dental and eye insurance; life insurance; and paid vacation and sick leave.

Benson said under Indiana

Code, applicants may not be appointed as a member of the WPD after the person has reached 40 years of age.

Benson said under the nepotism clause of Indiana Code 36-1-20.2, a person may not be appointed as a member of the WPD who is related to any officer of the department.

Benson said applicants must meet the residency requirements of Indiana Code 36-8-4.2.

“The city of Wabash is an equal opportunity employer,” said Benson.

Drug executives: Big jump in vaccine supply is coming soon

By **MATTHEW PERRONE** and **LAURAN NEERGAARD**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — COVID-19 vaccine makers told Congress on Tuesday to expect a big jump in the delivery of doses over the coming month, and the companies insist they will be able to provide enough for most Americans to get inoculated by summer.

Vaccinations got off to a rocky start, but by the end of March, Pfizer and Moderna expect to have provided the U.S. government with a total of 220 million vaccine doses, up sharply from the roughly 75 million shipped so far.

“We do believe we’re on track,” Moderna President Stephen Hoge said, outlining ways the company has ramped up production. “We think we’re at a very good spot.”

That’s not counting a third vaccine, from Johnson & Johnson, that’s expected to get a green light from regulators soon. The Biden administration said Tuesday that it expects about 2 million doses of that vaccine to be shipped in the first week, but the company told lawmakers it should provide enough of

the single-dose option for 20 million people by the end of March.

Looking ahead to summer, Pfizer and Moderna expect to complete delivery of 300 million doses each, and J&J aims to provide an additional 100 million doses. That would be more than enough to vaccinate every American adult, the goal set by the Biden administration.

Two other manufacturers, Novavax and AstraZeneca, have vaccines in the pipeline and anticipate eventually adding to those totals.

Asked pointedly if they face shortages of raw materials, equipment or funding that would throw off those schedules, all of the manufacturers expressed confidence that they had enough supplies and had already addressed some of the early bottlenecks in production.

“At this point I can confirm we are not seeing any shortages of raw materials,” said Pfizer’s John Young.

The hearing by a House subcommittee came as U.S. vaccinations continue to accelerate after a sluggish start and recent disruptions caused by winter weather. But state health officials say demand for inoculations still vastly

outstrips the limited weekly shipments provided by the federal government.


“The most pressing challenge now is the lack of supply of vaccine doses,” Rep. Diana DeGette, a Colorado Democrat, said as she opened the hearing. “Some of the companies here today are still short of the number of doses they promised to initially deliver when they last testified before this subcommittee in July.”

Both Pfizer and Moderna failed to meet delivery quotas for the initial doses of their vaccines late last year. That’s prompted Congress to scrutinize the companies’ plans for vaccine development and delivery, which they noted benefited from \$16 billion in federal funding.


“A significant amount of American tax dollars were invested to be able to produce the vaccine immediately upon approval,” said Rep. David McKinley, a West Virginia Republican, who questioned executives on why they were still unable to meet demand for the vaccines.

Nearly 14 percent of Americans have received at least an initial dose of the two-shot-regimen vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna.


5-Day Weather Summary




Wednesday  
Mostly Cloudy  
Areas of Fog  
48 / 26




Thursday  
Partly Cloudy  
40 / 23



Friday  
Partly Cloudy  
43 / 33




Saturday  
Mostly Cloudy  
51 / 36





Sunday  
Scattered Rain  
50 / 37


Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 7:21 a.m.

Full 2/27

Last 3/5

New 3/13

First 3/21

Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with areas of fog, high temperature of 49°, humidity of 76%. West southwest wind 11 to 14 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 26°. Northwest wind 3 to 11 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 22°.

Black Indiana lawmakers seek reprimands after confrontations

By **TOM DAVIES**

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus called Tuesday for lawmakers who sparked confrontations with Black legislators last week to face reprimands and for all lawmakers to undergo mandatory anti-bias training.

The request came after tempers flared among Indiana House members on Thursday. Black lawmakers were shouted down and booed by some Republicans during a debate and some verbal altercations took place in hallways.

Democratic Rep. Robin Shackleford of Indianapolis, the Black caucus chairwoman, called the conduct of some Republican members aggressive and intimidating and said it was time to “say enough is enough.”

Shackleford said she and other Black caucus members met with Republican House Speaker Todd Huston and asked for reprimands, training on implicit racial bias and for greater safety assurances for lawmakers against hostile behavior.

The steps are needed because of offensive social media posts and comments from some Republican House members, Shackleford said.

“We can’t tell who all is racist over there. We hear some of the comments,” she

said.

Huston didn’t address the Black caucus’ requests on Tuesday, saying in a statement he was committed to maintaining “decorum, civility and professionalism.” Huston, who is in his first full year as speaker, told House members on Monday that they should be considerate of different perspectives and must be more respectful of lawmakers speaking in accordance with House rules.

“It’s not my nature to be heavy-handed in enforcement, but make no mistake going forward that will be the case,” Huston said.

Last week’s confrontations started when Black lawmakers spoke against a bill allowing a rural, mostly white township in St. Joseph County to leave the South Bend Community Schools, which is about 60 percent Black or Hispanic, and called the proposal discriminatory and racist.

Several Republican members booed, said loudly “no” and “stop,” and some started leaving the House meeting room. An argument erupted in a hallway between Republican Sean Eberhart of Shelbyville, who is white, and Democratic Rep. Vanessa Summers of Indianapolis, who is Black. Other legislators separated them.

Democratic Rep. Vernon Smith of Gary, who is Black, said he was called a bully

by Republican Rep. Alan Morrison of Brazil, who is white, when they were in a restroom. Smith said Morrison kept berating him in the hallway until Morrison was pulled aside by another legislator.

“I understand that what I say often is not comfortable for some of my colleagues,” Smith, who’s been a House member for 31 years, said Tuesday. “What I was offended by is that one of my colleagues wanted to shut me up. I think that I have a right to speak my opinions.”

Morrison declined through his legislative press secretary to comment to The Associated Press. Morrison told The Indianapolis Star he wouldn’t talk about what happened.

“What happens between two grown men, I won’t say anything,” Morrison said. “He can say whatever he wants, but I’ve got no comment on it.”

The Black caucus is made up of 14 House members or senators among the 150 state lawmakers. All are Democrats from Indianapolis or northwestern Indiana’s Lake County.

The Republican-dominated House narrowly approved the school district bill on a 52-43 vote as 14 Republicans joined Democrats in voting against the proposal, sending it to the Senate for consideration.

Southern Baptists oust 2 churches over LGBTQ inclusion

By **DAVID CRARY**

AP National Writer

The Southern Baptist Convention’s executive committee voted Tuesday to oust four of its churches, two over policies deemed to be too inclusive of LGBTQ people and two more for employing pastors convicted of sex offenses.

The actions were announced at a meeting marked by warnings from two top leaders that the SBC, the largest Protestant denomination in the United States, was damaging itself with divisions over several critical issues including race.

“We should mourn when closet racists and neo-Confederates feel more at home in our churches than do many of our people of color,” said the SBC’s president, J.D. Greear, in his opening speech.

The two churches expelled for LGBTQ inclusion were St. Matthews Baptist Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and Towne View Baptist Church, in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Towne View’s pastor, the Rev. Jim Conrad, told The Associated Press last week that he would not appeal the ouster and plans to affiliate his church, at least temporarily, with The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which lets churches set their own LGBTQ policies.

Towne View began admitting LGBTQ worshippers as members in October 2019 after a same-sex couple with three adopted children asked Conrad if they could attend, a decision he defends as the right thing to do.

“The alternative would have been to say, ‘We’re probably not ready for this,’ but I couldn’t do that,” said Conrad, pastor there since 1994.

St. Matthews Baptist was among more than 12 churches that lost their affiliation

with the Kentucky Baptist Convention in 2018 because they made financial contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, which had recently lifted a ban on hiring LGBTQ employees.

SBC officials said West Side Baptist Church in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania, was ousted because it “knowingly employs as pastor a registered sex offender,” while Antioch Baptist Church in Sevierville, Tennessee, has a pastor who was convicted of statutory rape.

West Side Baptist had made clear on its website that its pastor, David Pearson, has a troubled past.

“Over 29 years ago Pastor David lived as a great sinner and rebel,” the site says. “But Christ Jesus is a great Savior! Today Pastor David has gone from disgrace to amazing grace and now has served the Lord Jesus Christ at West Side for 18 years.”

Fed’s Powell: Recovery incomplete, high inflation unlikely soon

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER** and **MARTIN CRUTSINGER**

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell underscored the U.S. economy’s ongoing weakness Tuesday in remarks that suggested that the Fed sees no need to alter its ultra-low interest rate policies anytime soon.

“The economic recovery remains uneven and far from complete, and the path ahead is highly uncertain,” Powell said in testimony to the Senate Banking Committee.

Powell’s comments are in contrast to the increasing optimism among many analysts that the economy will grow rapidly later this year. That outlook has also raised concerns, though, about a potential surge

in inflation and has fueled a sharp increase in longer-term interest rates this year.


Most economists say they think the Fed’s continued low rates, further government financial aid and progress in combating the viral pandemic could create a mini-economic boom as soon as this summer. Powell acknowledged the potential for a healthier economy. But he stressed the personal hardships caused by the pandemic, especially for unemployed Americans.

“As with overall economic activity, the pace of improvement in the labor market has slowed,” Powell said. “Although there has been much progress in the labor market since the spring, millions of Americans remain out of work.”

Powell’s focus on the economy’s challenges reflects his reluctance to send any signal that the Fed is considering pulling back on its efforts to boost economic growth and hiring. The Fed cut its benchmark short-term interest rate to nearly zero last March in response to the pandemic recession. It is also purchasing \$120 billion a month in bonds in an effort to hold down longer-term rates.

Powell reiterated that those purchases will continue until “substantial progress” has been made toward the Fed’s goals of low unemployment and stable inflation at about 2 percent annually.

The economy may improve rapidly later this year, Powell said, “but the job is not done yet, the job is not done.”



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# Obituaries

## The worst are full of passionate intensity

“#RestinPiss” was actually a trending hashtag in America in recent days. Radio talk-show host Rush Limbaugh had died of cancer, and people were celebrating. Because of

**Kathryn Lopez**



his own very public past of celebrating the deaths of those he disapproved of or disliked, it was declared justified. Some posts imagined with glee his entrance into hell. Do we really wish that upon a human being? I suspect some of the people tweeting such things don't actually give a lot of thought to the reality of hell and our role in adding to the sins that get people there.

We are all only human, whatever our position is, no matter how much money or influence we have. Instead of condemning or mocking others, perhaps we should start examining our own lives, if not our social media accounts.

Who among us wants to be judged by the worst things we've done? I'm certainly praying that the good things are taken into account when I die.

Americans need to take a deep breath, a few steps back from screens, and make some reflective and loving sacrifices for God and for each other. Whatever you believe, you know there is something going wrong in our current national scene, and we each have a role in finding the solution. It will take more than lip service or empty posturing.

There's an ongoing campaign right now called 40 Days for Life, where people sign up for an hour of prayer outside an abortion clinic – some doing it every day. The goal is to be prayerful, peaceful. When I do it, truth be told, I tend to keep my rosary in my pocket. Others may hold a sign about hope, or offer patrons a brochure about options – or healing, if a patron is exiting. We shouldn't make women feel like they have no other option than abortion. The women I've seen coming out of abortion clinics

have looked miserable. Earlier this month, I saw one run out crying, as if she couldn't get out of there fast enough. There must be a better way. But our current president isn't interested in finding one. We've gotten to our current place largely on a wave of euphemisms. “Choice.” “Health care.” “Freedom,” which might be the most bewildering. They mask ugly facts, and in doing so have led to a society with woefully misplaced priorities. Rhetoric is more important than action. Social media “likes” have replaced friendship. Political correctness has supplanted morality. And politics has replaced religion.

And now there is a proposed Equality Act. It's certainly well marketed. Who can be against equality? Except that's not what's going on in this proposal. It means new obstacles to faith-based ministries. Don't we want more people caring for their neighbors, rather than fewer? Catholic Social Services has gone to the Supreme Court because of the city of Philadelphia's warped view of how to help children in foster care: Lock out the Catholic Church because of its views of marriage. Just let Catholic Social Services do what it does well, without having to go there. That's not a judgment, that's conscience. Catholic agencies are a lifeline for many families. What is to be gained by making them submit to a new morality or close their doors?

If President Biden really wants to be a healing figure, he'd hold back some of the most radical policies his party is pushing under the veil of euphemisms. And can we put politics in its place already? And may God have mercy on us all, however we voted in the last presidential election!

*Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan's pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.*

## Mars rover's giant parachute carried secret message

**By MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The huge parachute used by NASA's Perseverance rover to land on Mars contained a secret message, thanks to a puzzle lover on the spacecraft team.

Systems engineer Ian Clark used a binary code to spell out “Dare Mighty Things” in the orange and white strips of the 70-foot parachute. He also included the GPS coordinates for the mission's headquarters at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Clark, a crossword hobbyist, came up with the idea two years ago. Engineers wanted an unusual pattern in the nylon fabric to know how the parachute was oriented during descent. Turning it into a secret message was “super fun,” he said Tuesday.

Only about six people knew about the encoded message before Thursday's landing, according

to Clark. They waited until the parachute images came back before putting out a teaser during a televised news conference Monday.

It took just a few hours for space fans to figure it out, Clark said. Next time, he noted, “I'll have to be a little bit more creative.”

“Dare Mighty Things” — a line from President Theodore Roosevelt — is a mantra at JPL and adorns many of the center's walls. The trick was “trying to come up with a way of encoding it but not making it too obvious,” Clark said.

As for the GPS coordinates, the spot is 10 feet from the entrance to JPL's visitor center.

Another added touch not widely known until touchdown: Perseverance bears a plaque depicting all five of NASA's Mars rovers in increasing size over the years — similar to the family car decals seen on Earth.

Clark suspects there are even more so-called hidden Easter eggs, but adds: “I'm not even privy to them.”

### Orlin L. Miller

Feb. 4, 1925 – Feb. 18, 2021

Orlin L. Miller, 96, of LaFontaine, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021 at Heritage Point of Huntington. Orlin was born in Wabash County on Feb. 4, 1925 to the late Otto and Elsa (Ridgeway) Miller. Orlin married Lavada Miller on May 14, 1948. They were married for 72 years.

Orlin graduated from LaFontaine High School and served during World War II in the United States Army. Orlin worked as a grain and dairy farmer and an electrician. He served on the Board of Directors for Wabash County REMC for 21 years.

Orlin attended Lincolnville United Methodist Church. He had attended there since he was 8 years old and taught Sunday school for over 20 years. Orlin enjoyed country gospel music and played the guitar. As a family, they played various instruments and traveled around to different nursing homes and festivals in the Wabash, LaFontaine and Marion communities. He and his wife Lavada enjoyed going to the Bob Evans Festival and to dulcimer festivals.

Orlin's family expressed “What a great loss for us all, but what an inspiration he has been.”

Orlin is survived by his wife, Lavada; son, Dennis (Patricia) Miller, of La-



Fontaine; daughter, Linda (David) Habegger, of Fort Wayne; granddaughter, Christi (Steve) Pieper, of North Carolina; step-grandson, Mark Habegger, of Fort Wayne and two great-grandchildren, Hannah and Aly Pieper.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the family held a private family funeral service at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at McDonald Funeral Homes, LaFontaine Chapel, 104 South Main Street, LaFontaine, Indiana 46940 with Pastor Bill Rapp officiating. Burial followed at LaFontaine IOOF Cemetery.

Preferred memorials are to Lincolnville United Methodist Church, 5847 E. 500 S., Wabash, Indiana 46992.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.mcdonaldfunerals.com](http://www.mcdonaldfunerals.com).

### John David Lawson

Jan. 13, 1949 – Feb. 19, 2021

John David Lawson, 72, of Lagro, Indiana, died at 7:38 pm, Friday, Feb.19, 2021 in North Manchester, Indiana. He was born Jan. 13, 1949 at the Wabash County Hospital to J. Warner and Marvelean (Semans) Lawson.

John was a 1967 graduate of Northfield High School and attended Vincennes University. He served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam Era. He married Valerie Edwardson in Minot, North Dakota on Oct. 31, 1970. John retired from Consolidated Freightways, where he was a truck driver. He also drove truck for Pefley's and G&S Metals. He was a member of the Lagro Community Church, the Lagro American Legion Post 248, and was a Lagro Volunteer Fireman for 28 years. John loved people and was a stranger to no one. He enjoyed collecting model trains and especially enjoyed his 1932 Chevy truck.

He is survived by his wife, Valerie Lawson of Lagro, three children, Rachel Lawson of Lagro, Rebecca (Bryan) Shafer of North Manchester, and James (Laura) Lawson of Wabash, four grandchildren, Breanna Burcroff of Warsaw, Bailey Burcroff, Jaxon Warner Lawson, and Faye Elizabeth Lawson,



all of Wabash, three sisters, Suzan Hamilton of Lagro, Mary Ann Lawson of Lansing, Michigan, and Beth (Rick Stouffer) Gillespie of Lagro, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m., Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with Pastor Richard Long officiating. Friends may call 3 p.m. -7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are Lagro Canal Foundation or the Lagro American Legion Post 248.

The memorial guest book for John may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

### Donna Burchick

Donna Burchick, 77, of Amboy, passed away on Feb. 22, 2021 at her residence with her loving husband, Michael, by her side.

Donna is survived by her husband Michael Burchick; son, Scott (Amy) Roar; one granddaughter, Adysen Roark and step-grandson, Cameron Osborne.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 12 p.m. on Friday,

Feb. 26, 2021 at St. Bernard Catholic Church, 207 North Cass Street, Wabash, Indiana

Calling will be from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 26, 2021 at McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Avenue, Wabash, Indiana.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.mcdonaldfunerals.com](http://www.mcdonaldfunerals.com).

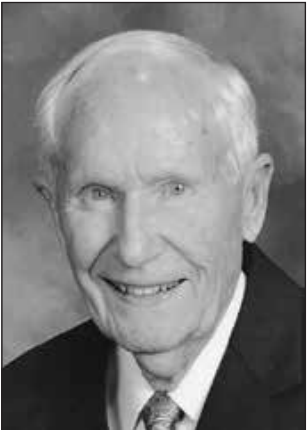
### Max Edward Howard

March 4, 1922 – Feb. 11, 2021

Max Edward Howard, of Panama City Beach, Florida, and Wabash, Indiana, died Feb. 11, 2021 at his home, in Panama City Beach. He was born on March 4, 1922, in Graves County, Kentucky, to Hollis V. and Maude (Boyd) Howard.

Max was the valedictorian of Sedalia High School in Sedalia, Kentucky. He attended Murray State College, and graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BS in Agriculture, and also received his Master in Agronomy from the University of Kentucky. Max was also WWII US Army veteran, serving in the China/Burma/India Theatre. He married Patricia Ann Lane in Zanesville, Ohio on Oct. 8, 1955; she died Oct. 24, 2007. Max taught a School of Instructional Training on farm management for returning veterans. He also worked for the U.S.D.A. in animal disease eradication and retired from the Kroger Company after 28 years in the Dairy and Egg Divisions. He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Wabash. He enjoyed yard work, gardening, and enjoyed visiting with people.

He is survived by two daughters, Rebecca S. (Daniel) Grinstead of Houston, Texas, and Deborah A. (David) Williams of Panama City, Florida, five grandchildren, Alison (Jacob) Ford of Meadows Place, Texas, Scott Grinstead of Austin, Texas,



Amy (Tommy) Behrman of Houston, Texas, Paul (Kate) Williams of Richmond, Virginia, and Joel (Molly) Williams of Jackson, Mississippi, four great-grandchildren, Max Williams of Richmond, Virginia, Charlie and Mari Ford of Meadows Place, Texas, and Lewis Behrman of Houston, Texas.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, and one sister.

There will be a memorial service later this year in Wabash. Burial will be in Falls Cemetery, Wabash. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorials are Paradise Spring Board, Inc., PO Box 353, Wabash, Indiana 46992 or Friends of St. Andrews State Park, 5401 State Park Circle, Panama City Beach, Florida 32408.. The memorial guest book for Max may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

### Ray Arthur Hart

Feb. 21, 1937 – Feb. 20, 2021

Ray Arthur Hart, 83, of rural Wabash, Indiana, died at 7:32 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021 at Parkview Wabash Hospital. He was born Feb. 21, 1937 in Washington, Pennsylvania, to Ray and Margaret (Howell) Hart.

Ray was a 1955 graduate of Washington High School in Washington, Pennsylvania. He was a US Air Force veteran. Ray married Dianna Bellock at the St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wabash on Jan. 31, 1959. He was a fireman with the Wabash City Fire Department, retiring after 31 years. Ray was a member of the St. Bernard Catholic Church. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, making fishing lures, training labrador retrievers for field trials, and especially enjoyed being with family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Dianna Hart of Wabash; three children, Den-



nis (Louise) Hart and Tim (Patricia) Hart, both of Fort Wayne, Indiana, and Lisa (Jonathan) Lawyer of Urbana, Indiana, five grandchildren, Aaron Hart, Ashlie Hart, and Emily (Eric) Harris, all of Fort Wayne, Justin (Bethany) Lawyer of Roann, Indiana, and Ethan Lawyer of Urbana, and four great-grandchildren, Everlie and Eila Marks of Fort Wayne, and Beau and Olivia Harris of Fort Wayne. He was preceded in death by his parents.

There will be a funeral mass at 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021 at St. Bernard Catholic Church in Wabash with Father Levi Nkwocha officiating. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorial is St. Bernard Catholic School.

The memorial guest book for Ray may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

### Patricia A. ‘Patty’ Schipper

Feb. 12, 1937 – Feb. 19, 2021

Patricia A. “Patty” Schipper, 84, of Wabash, passed away on Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 at her residence. Patty was born on Feb. 12, 1937, in Arkansas, to the late Homer and Bernice Snow.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2021 at McDonald Funeral Homes, 231 Falls Ave-

nue, Wabash, Indiana 46992.

Visitation will be one hour prior to the funeral service at the funeral home.

Preferred memorials are to Lighthouse Mission of Wabash County, 806 N Cass St, Wabash, Indiana.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.mcdonaldfunerals.com](http://www.mcdonaldfunerals.com).

### PENDING SERVICES

**Everett E. “Gene” Davis, 83, of Wabash:** passed away on Saturday, Feb. 20, 2021. Services are pending and have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, Wabash.

## Ind. Senate moves bills for law enforcement control

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana senators advanced measures Tuesday that would allow police to determine what use of force is reasonable in some cases and would allow the state's attorney general to appoint special prosecutors to handle criminal cases local authorities decide not to pursue.

Both bills are now headed to the House.

Sen. Mike Young, who sponsored the measure on prosecutors, said it ensures local authorities can't create lists of crimes they won't prosecute, pointing to such decisions made by prosecutors in Boston, Chicago and

St. Louis to stop pressing charges in cases like trespassing, disorderly conduct or prostitution.

“Our job ... is to pass what we think are prudent laws that are fair and effective for the citizens of our state to keep them safe,” Young said. “The only people this bill applies to is a prosecuting who won't follow the law themselves.”

The Republican state senator introduced a nearly identical bill last year after Democratic Marion County Prosecutor Ryan Mears announced that his office wouldn't pursue charges against adults for possessing about 1 ounce or less of

marijuana.

Young has maintained that the bill's latest iteration “has nothing to do with” the Marion County prosecutor, however, and said it is aimed at any prosecutor in the state who adopts what he called a “social justice prosecution” policy not to pursue charges for certain crimes.

Another bill, authored by Republican Sen. Scott Baldwin, would ban local governments or merit boards from disciplining officers who lawfully defend themselves when they believe their own lives are at risk.

Under the measure, police officers would be allowed

to determine “reasonable” uses of force in certain situations. That means officers could disregard their department's use of force policy and use techniques — including chokeholds, which are currently prohibited by Indianapolis police — that are not currently permitted. The bill also prohibits officers from firing warning shots.

“At the end of the day, officers have to act reasonably,” Baldwin said. “Piling on more and more guidelines creates more stress and decreases reaction time and causes officers to second guess themselves in their actions, leading to danger for themselves and others.”



VACCINE

From page A1

from when the local clinic first opened at the Wabash County Museum several weeks ago.

Hobson said they usually have more vaccines available than people to administer them to.

“We usually have to call people,” said Hobson, referring to the local waiting list.

As of Tuesday, the ISDH vaccine dashboard reported a total of 4,895 first vaccine doses had been administered in Wabash County, with 22 of those performed Monday. The dashboard also reported a total of 1,828 second vaccine doses had been administered in Wabash County, with 53 of those performed Monday.

Vaccine appointments for this newly eligible population will be available over the next four to six weeks to align with the state receiving its expected weekly vaccine allocation, stated the ISDH. Hoosiers who cannot find an appointment at the nearest location are encouraged to look at other sites in neighboring counties. Appointments are being added regularly as vaccine supplies permit.

By noon Tuesday, nearly 63,000 Hoosiers ages 60 to 64 had scheduled a free COVID-19 vaccine in their first three hours of eligibility. As of Tuesday, 905,236 Hoosiers had received a first dose of vaccine, and 459,603 are fully vaccinated.

Effective immediately, only individuals who live in Indiana and meet the eligibility criteria can receive a vaccine at an Indiana clinic.

“This will ensure that doses allocated to Indiana

go to Hoosiers. All clinics have been reminded to verify eligibility prior to administering a vaccine,” stated the ISDH. “Out-of-state residents who received their first dose in Indiana can still receive their second dose at the same clinic.”

The ISDH will host 10 vaccine clinics for eligible Hoosiers around the state from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday. The clinics are being added to areas where there are currently no open vaccine appointments. Individuals must register in advance at <https://ourshot.in.gov>. No walk-ups will be allowed.

The locations are:

■ Ivy Tech, 4475 Central Ave., Columbus.

■ Ivy Tech, 251 E. Clinton, Frankfort.

■ Ivy Tech, 50 Walnut St., Lawrenceburg.

■ Greene County Fairgrounds, 4503 W. State Road 54, Bloomfield.

■ Ivy Tech, 410 E. Columbus Dr., East Chicago.

■ 3714 Franklin St., Michigan City.

■ Inn at Spring Mill State Park, 333 Indiana 60 E., Mitchell.

■ Randolph County Fairgrounds, 1885 US 27, Winchester.

■ Mid-America Science Park, 821 S. Lake Rd. South, Scottsburg.

■ White County Fairgrounds, 12 N. 25 East, Reynolds.

To schedule a vaccine, visit <https://ourshot.in.gov> and select a location from one of more than 370 clinics around the state. Hoosiers who do not have a computer or cell phone or those who need assistance scheduling an appointment can call 211 or contact one of Indiana’s Area Agencies on Aging or AARP. Nearly

70 libraries around the state also are helping Hoosiers schedule their appointments.

Vaccination clinics that are part of the federal vaccine program, including those at Walmart, Sams Club and Kroger, appear on the clinic map at <https://ourshot.in.gov> but are scheduled through those retailers’ platforms, not through the state centralized system.

Also on Monday, Gov. Eric J. Holcomb is directing flags across the state to be flown at half-staff in memory of the more than 500,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19, according to press secretary Rachel Hoffmeyer.

Per President Joe Biden’s proclamation, flags should be flown at half-staff from now until sunset Friday, Feb. 26.

“Gov. Holcomb also asks businesses and residents to lower their flags to half-staff,” said Hoffmeyer.

Local figures

■ On Saturday, the ISDH reported three new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,274, with 13,930 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 2.4 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 12.9 percent.

■ On Sunday, the ISDH reported two new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,276, with 13,970 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 2.1 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 11.2 percent.

■ On Monday, the ISDH reported nine new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s

total to 3,285, with 13,983 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 2.5 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 12.1 percent.

■ On Tuesday, the ISDH reported two new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,287, with 13,992 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 2.2 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 10.3 percent.

Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH reported that 716 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 657,037 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard.

A total of 12,025 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 44 from the previous day. Another 425 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record.

To date, 3,088,729 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 3,085,554 on Monday. A total of 7,815,751 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26, 2020.

To find testing sites around the state, visit [www.coronavirus.in.gov](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov) and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

“A criminal charge is merely an accusation,” said Benson. “Every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.”

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

PURSUIT

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According to court records, Armstrong was charged with a misdemeanor charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated endangering a person, a felony charge of operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a prior

conviction within seven years, a felony charge of resisting law enforcement using a vehicle, a misdemeanor charge of resisting law enforcement where the defendant knowingly or intentionally forcibly resists and a misdemeanor charge of reckless driving at unreasonable high or low speed so to endanger safety.

On Monday, Judge Benjamin Vanderpool set Armstrong’s bond at \$12,000, or \$1,200 cash. Armstrong pleaded not guilty. A pretrial conference was set for 8:15 a.m. April 20.

Benson said assisting WPD were WCSD, Indiana State Police (ISP) and Wabash Fire Department (WFD) ambulance.

PULSE

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Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org), [classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](http://classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Series of in-person Imagine One 85 workshops rescheduled for early March

Originally planned for February, a series of in-person Imagine One 85 Focus on the Future sessions have been slated for early March by the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) and Grow Wabash County. Planned in-person sessions include 6 p.m. Monday, March 1 at the Roann Community Center, 105 N. Chippewa St., Roann; 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 at the Lagro Town Hall, 230 Buchanan St., Lagro; 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 2 at The Learning Center, 207 N. Wabash Ave., La Fontaine; 6 p.m. Wednesday, March 3 at the Honeywell Center’s Legacy Center, 275 W. Market St.; and 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4 at the Manchester Community Schools Administration Building Auditorium, 404 W. 9th St., North Manchester. To register, visit <https://imagineone85.org/focus-on-the-future/>.

Grow Wabash County hosting Process Communication workshop

Registration is now open for Grow Wabash County’s Process Communication Model (PCM) workshop scheduled for Monday, May 3 through Wednesday, May 5, at the Grow Wabash

Southwood, Metro North Kindergarten Round-Ups announced

Children who will be at least five years of age on or before Aug. 1 are eligible to participate in kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year. Southwood Elementary will host their Round-Up on Wednesday, March 10, and Metro North Elementary will hold theirs on Thursday, March 11. Families must register for Kindergarten Round-Up no later than March 8. To register, visit [www.msdlc.k12.in.us](http://www.msdlc.k12.in.us). For more information about Southwood Elementary School, email Principal Phil Boone at [boonepr@msdlc.k12.in.us](mailto:boonepr@msdlc.k12.in.us). For more information about Metro North Elementary School, email Principal Janette Moore at [moorej@msdlc.k12.in.us](mailto:moorej@msdlc.k12.in.us).

Visit Wabash County plans annual St. Trolley’s Day Tour

Visit Wabash County has announced tickets are on sale for the annual St. Trolley’s Day Tour set for Saturday, March 13. The St. Trolley’s Day Tour is \$30 per person, due at registration, and is all-inclusive for those 21 and older. To register, visit [www.VisitWabashCounty.com/trolley-tours](http://www.VisitWabashCounty.com/trolley-tours), visit 221 S. Miami St. or call 260-563-7171.

Wabash County Animal Shelter partnership to pair emerging readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month, starting March 18 at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will

be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

COVID-19 testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital “on an on-going basis.” Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email [office@wabashfriends.org](mailto:office@wabashfriends.org), call 260-571-5235 or visit [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

*Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com) no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.*

JAIL

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it’s being used to house inmates,” said Baker.

Baker said they drive thousands of miles per month just transferring inmates from one jail to another.

“These things are all becoming a little overbearing for us,” said Baker.

The county has issued a request for proposals to select an architect or engineer for the new facility to be located at 1335 Manchester Ave.

Pyramid Consulting president Terry Burnworth, who has been hired as the owner’s representative, said they were looking at a 90,000 square foot facility, which would house around 300 inmates.

Burnworth said a 20-acre parcel would be carved out for the new facility and also for future expansion.

Bowman said when they starting transferring inmates in 2012, it was “not a significant amount at the start.”

“As the years have progressed it’s continued to increase,” said Bowman.

Bowman said the projected cost for 2021 would be \$1.2 million to house inmates out of the county.

Bowman said the state had recently changed the reimbursement method so that some low-level felons remain in the county.

Bowman said that while the state reimburses the county for the cost of housing these inmates locally, the state has been running behind on their reimbursements.

Bowman said the state recently changed the formula to a one-time distribution based on the preceding year’s number of housed inmates.

“It’s a more dependable number on what we’re getting reimbursed, (but) we can’t really correlate it to a specific year,” said Bowman.

Bowman said the state created a correctional facility fund that is income

tax-driven.

“We’re not changing the property tax rates we are accessing,” said Bowman. “We are looking at changing credits that residents, business and landowners receive.”

Bowman said these credits, sometimes called Property Tax Reform Committee (PTRC) credits, have been in existence for quite a few years and remove some of the income tax burdens.

Bowman said they were looking at lowering these credits from .5 to .4.

Bowman said these credits are assessed at different values and amounts and are based on property types, with most of them going to homestead homeowners.

“A smaller portion goes to rentals, business owners and landowners,” said Bowman. “We can begin changing these credits we’ve been getting. The more drastic percentage change to homeowners.”

During the question and answer portion of the meeting, Baker said they chose a 300-bed facility because, according to the state standard, that would mean the new jail would be at capacity when the average daily population reached 240.

“If we build a 225-bed jail at 179 beds it’s full,” said Baker. “We house 170 to 180 inmates.”

Bowman said the projected cost for the project was around \$33 million. Bowman said a yearly \$2.1 million or \$2.3 million amortizing payment on a 20-year time frame for a complete payoff would be required.

Wabash County District 1 commissioner Brian K. Hauptert said they would know more once they hired the architect.

“Hiring the architect is an important step for us because we need to know hard numbers,” said Hauptert.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

BRIDGE

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the funds included 31 other bridge rehabilitation or replacement projects; 11 resurfacing or reconstruction projects; six Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) projects that include work such as sidewalks, ADA ramps and trails; and five traffic safety projects.

Manning said for this latest round of funding, rural communities will design, develop and purchase land for projects that would be bid during the fiscal year beginning July 2025. INDOT dedicates approximately 25 percent of its federal highway funds to support local projects each year. Metropolitan Planning Organizations distribute those funds to cities, towns, and counties within the state’s larger urbanized areas while INDOT distributes funds outside MPO areas.

“While the funds awarded now are dedicated to construction, INDOT will be financially participating in the design, engineering, and right of way acquisition components of these projects,” said Manning.

Manning said communities must pay at least 20 percent in local matching funds and meet other federal requirements to receive federal funding. Rural communities were invited to submit project applications to INDOT for potential funding during a call for projects announced in October 2020.

In November 2020, Wyatt submitted a proposal to provide this local funding, which was approved unanimously

by the Wabash County Board of Commissioners. Marcie Shepherd, Wabash County auditor, said the county portion was \$436,000 for the bridge project.

Wabash County Bridge No. 144 has been unusable due to flood damage for over two years, and a group of nearby residents has become more and more concerned they will be permanently left with only one way in and out of their homes and businesses.

The bridge on the east end of that road, Bridge No. 143, has needed repairs as well. Wyatt said that once construction was to begin, the residents that reside on 1050 South, west of Bridge No. 143 would “obviously” maintain access to their homes during construction.

On Monday, Wyatt said Wabash County was “moving forward with its efforts to vacate Wabash County Bridge No. 144.”

“The existing structure and right-of-way will be returned to the Army Corps of Engineers,” said Wyatt.

Local resident Don Jervis has been a familiar presence at Wabash County Board of Commissioners meetings speaking against the county’s plans for the bridges.

“Should the (Army Corps of Engineers) accept the Bridge No. 144 property, perhaps they will demonstrate how to fill in a hole in a man-made hill,” said Jervis on Monday. “As to Bridge No. 143, July 2026 is a long time from now for a \$1.5 million project. New concerns, new characters.”

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

LARGE BLOCK OF PRODUCTIVE CROPLAND

AUCTION

MARCH 10<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm EST

MIAMI COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS | 1029 W 200 N, PERU

INSPECTION DATES: FEB. 23 & 26 | 4:00-6:00pm

PERU, IN • MIAMI COUNTY

TRACTS 1 & 2: Paw Paw Pike and 400 N

TRACTS 3 & 5: 400 N

TRACT 4: E 400 N and N 300 E

TRACT 6: E 400 N and SR 19

TRACT 7: Along E 200 N and N Paw Paw Pike

713.09+/-

total acres

LOCATED 5-8 MILES NORTHEAST OF PERU

AJ JORDAN: 317.697.3086 | LARRY JORDAN: 765.473.5849

HALDERMAN

REAL ESTATE & FARM MANAGEMENT

Auctioneer: Russell D. Harmeyer

IN Auct. Lic. #AU10000277

HRRES IN Auct. Lic. #AC69200019

OWNER: BALLARD FARM, HLS#AJ1-12501



# Punishment doesn't fit crime after boy is caught with porn

**DEAR ABBY:** When I stopped by my brother's house a couple of weeks ago, he mentioned that his 9-year-old son was grounded in his bedroom. He was being punished for snooping in his dad's vintage collection of porn.

Dear Abby



At first I was upset with my brother and his wife, because it was their fault that the boy had access to it, and boys are naturally curious. But when I found out what his punishment was, I became enraged. Their "brilliant" idea was to make my nephew disgusted with porn by forcing him to look at the entire collection for three hours instead of playing outside.

Maybe this tactic works for cigarette smoking or chewing tobacco, but this seemed very wrong. I was so appalled, I overstepped; I went straight into my nephew's room and told him he was allowed to go outside and play. Abby, what do you think? Am I being ridiculous? What should I have done? — Appalled In Ohio

**DEAR APPALLED:** The child's punishment was extreme and inappropriate. What you SHOULD have done was point out to your brother and sister-in-law that their punishment may have been counterproductive. Rather than working as aversion therapy, it could result in whetting their son's appetite for more. You might also have suggested they consult a child psychologist for suggestions on how to deal with their son's budding sexual curiosity, which is entirely normal, and urged that from now on they keep their collection under lock and key.

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently met a very nice woman online. During our first phone call, she told me about an injury she received a few months ago that has left her with a disability. I'm not bothered by it, and I'd like to get to know her better.

From the way she responded to a few things, I got the impression that she is still coming to terms with what has happened, as anyone would be. I have no experience with a situation like this, and I have no idea if, from the perspective of dating, it is the right thing to engage someone who is going through this. Any thoughts? — Tentative In Indiana

**DEAR TENTATIVE:** Yes, it's the right thing — but only if you can be supportive and patient during what has to be an extremely emotionally disruptive time in this woman's life. I am sure she could use a supportive male friend right now, as long as you two can continue to have an open and honest dialogue with each other.

**DEAR ABBY:** My 30-year-old son lives with me for financial reasons, and I love him dearly. He helps with bills and works a full-time job. My only problem with him is he wears the same pair of pants for weeks without washing them and hasn't washed his sheets in months. I didn't raise him that way. He does take a shower every night.

He owns only one pair of pants, and I can't get him to buy another pair. I have complained to him several times about the bad smell. How can I get him to change his ways? — Fed-Up Mother In Texas

**DEAR FED UP:** At this point in his life, that may not be possible. It seems strange to me that someone who smells bad could hold a full-time job, but I will take your word for it. The easiest solution to your problem might be for you to wash his bedding every few weeks. As to the fact that he has only one pair of pants, buy him a pair for his next birthday or for Christmas — whichever comes sooner.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 One on two feet

6 Founded

11 Elaborate

12 Light, porous rock

13 Kind of network

14 Eloquent speaker

15 Insert mark

16 Skater's jump

17 Shangri-la

18 Decay

19 Glimpse from afar

23 Like a bow string

25 Urgent

26 Pilot's problem

29 "Bahl"

32 Mauna —

33 Turkish potentate

34 Windy City airport

35 Elec. measure

36 Flood residues

38 Done with reckless haste

40 Obi

41 Bro or sis

42 Ruler marking

46 Scandinavian city

48 Sleep noisily

49 Reddish antelope

52 Sailboat

53 Keep out of sight (2 wds.)

54 Squinted at

55 Rub out

56 Wrote more

DOWN

1 Loaf

2 Accustom

3 Raise and nurture

4 Iowa, to Jacques

5 Computer key

6 Mr. Reynolds

7 Stunned

8 Watch the kids

9 Environmental prefix

10 Van —

11 Story opener

12 Mope

16 Seducer

18 Send overnight

20 Kimono material

21 Figure-head's place

22 "You bet!"

24 Military addr.

26 Edible tubers

27 Water, to Pedro

28 Crumples

30 Saudi native

31 Unsold of the NBA

37 Sand bars

39 Implied

41 Popular side dish

43 — Dame

44 System of beliefs

45 Group of livestock

47 Blackthorn fruit

48 Took legal action

49 Seine vista

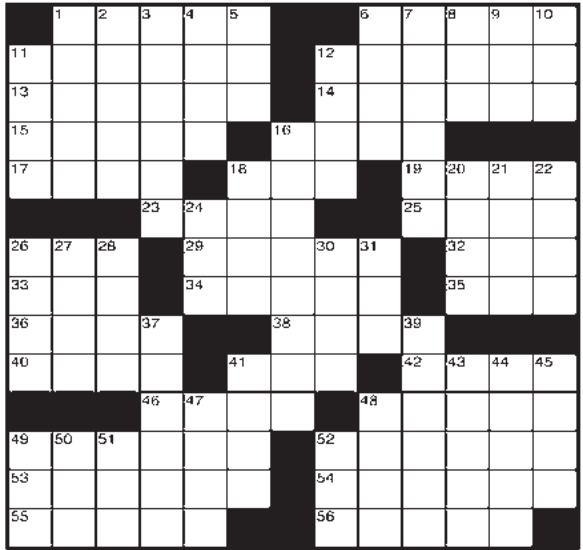
50 First space lab

51 Green veggie

52 Tax pro

Answer to Previous Puzzle

HID NAIL KATE  
AIDE ALDA OVEN  
SIC SLAM AIRY  
TOOTSY BANANA  
ATRIA LIST  
MUSEUM IRA  
HIFI ARM BOAR  
ACID SIP ANTE  
NHL CHESTS  
TAO OILED  
PIAELLA MANILA  
OGRE BRAS MEN  
SUET BOLT OCT  
TADA ABLY STE



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## SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

			4	6	1		7	
6			8		3			9
7	1			9				8
1					9	4		
	7	8	1	5	6	9	2	
		3	7					6
9				2			6	4
2			9		4			1
	4		6	1	7			

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION								
1	8	4	7	5	2	6	9	3
9	3	7	1	8	6	5	4	2
2	5	6	3	9	4	7	8	1
3	9	2	5	1	8	4	6	7
6	7	5	9	4	3	1	2	8
4	1	8	2	6	7	9	3	5
8	2	9	6	7	5	3	1	4
7	6	3	4	2	1	8	5	9
5	4	1	8	3	9	2	7	6

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ATEML

NEULG

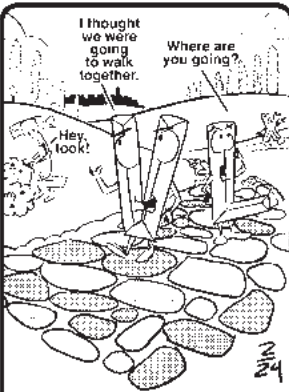
CTMIOS

ABNERR

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## THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



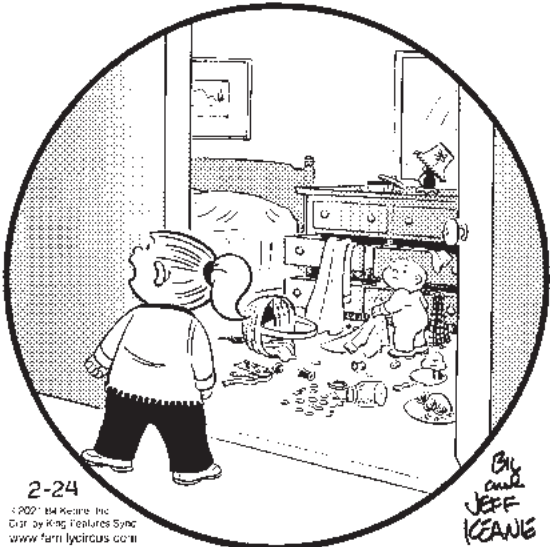
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: NAVAL LIVID GATHER ROTATE  
Answer: When his sister took his baseball glove without permission, he asked her to — HAND IT OVER

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"You're right, Mommy! He's into something!"

2-24 © 2021 Bil Keane Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.famcircus.com

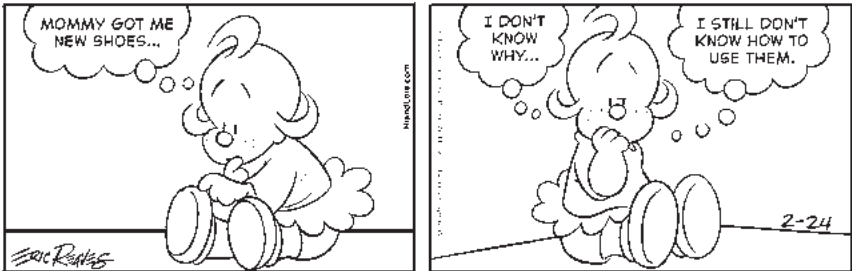
## BEETLE BAILEY



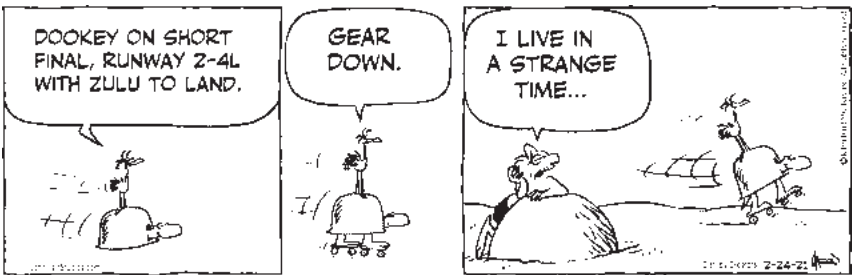
## BLONDIE



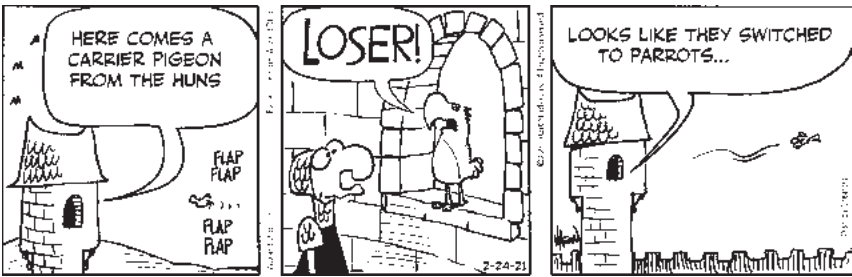
## HI & LOIS



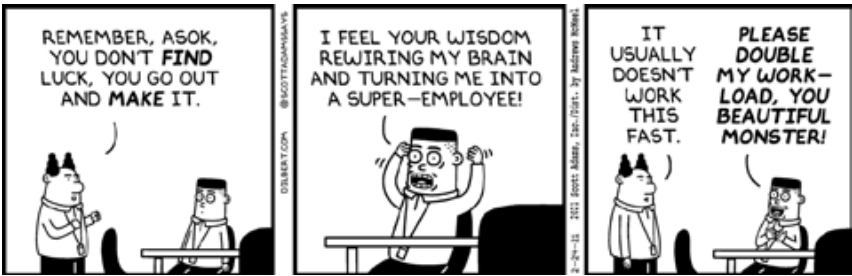
## BC



## WIZARD OF ID



## DILBERT



## GARFIELD



## FORT KNOX



## PICKLES



# Christ will transform every soul that cries out

**Q:** Is the human soul real and can each person really find a soulmate? — H.S.

**A:** The subject of the soul has a prominent place in our thinking.

Finding the sole source of real love brings light into life? Salvation in Jesus Christ is the only hope for the soul. Only He can illumine the dark corners

of our lives and give us soul satisfaction. The soul was made by God and for God and without Him it is restless and in secret torment, and terribly lonely.

A booming business has emerged from Africa to Asia, from Australia to Europe, in our culture's restless search for a "soul mate." Online matchmaking services promise to bring light into lonely hearts by matching one up with an-

other — someone just right. "Relationship experts" teach clients to practice "self-love" in order to attract a potential partner. One such expert wrote, "We have the power to create our own personal movie-like narratives, love stories based on our own desires and hopes."

Many search for the perfect spouse just as many also search for some religion that fits their particular lifestyle. But such searching will never come to a satisfying end. What does

bring complete satisfaction is to commit our lives completely to the Lord, who brings true and lasting fulfillment to the human soul. Christ will transform every soul that cries out to Him. He puts a glow on the face, a spring in the step, and joy in the soul. He is the One who knows the longings and deepest needs of every person on earth.

The Bible tells us to "humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls" (James 1:21, NLT).

## CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" UHBAIS VLLF PSA S ESGHBTN, STE  
KOHK LK JIU EUYBH. S PBGUE-OC  
HBJJHU KUHLPL PIL PSA SHPSRA  
DOAR, DOAR, DOAR." — XSGBU  
PBTEALG

Previous Solution: "I intend to do the Penn & Teller show until they pry my cheesy magic wand from my cold dead fingers." — Penn Jillette

TODAY'S CLUE: XSGBU



# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
[Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov)

**State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
[h18@in.gov](mailto:h18@in.gov)

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:  
[www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to [wabashplainedealr.com](mailto:wabashplainedealr.com) with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.



All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

John 6:37

# Resist Facebook bullying

Americans – including President Joe Biden, members of Congress and everyone sharing news online – should heed what Facebook is doing in Australia.

On Wednesday, Facebook abruptly blocked everyone in Australia from sharing and posting legitimate news stories on its site. It did this to avoid compensating news organizations, as required by a forthcoming Australian law.

In other words, the company that wants everyone to share everything is itself refusing to share. Facing the prospect of having to play nice, it threw a fit and degraded its site across an entire nation.

America should prepare to resist such bullying.

Australia is previewing what's to come as the U.S. and other countries pursue antitrust enforcement and reforms to rein in digital platforms, and preserve free press systems essential to their democracies.

The bullying apparently won't work in Australia. Government officials are furious and proceeding with plans to pass a law requiring Facebook and Google to negotiate compensation with news organizations or face arbitration.

Tech giants must accept that this is happening and adjust.

Facebook's reaction could ultimately help the news industry. If people can no longer get free snippets delivering the essence of the news on social media, they'll have to subscribe to newspapers or visit websites of media companies that invest in reporting to remain informed.

People used to get and share music online for free, which hurt artists and that industry. Government intervened, platforms evolved and paid subscriptions now account for most music sales. Facebook and Google can't continue to be the circa 1999 Napsters of news.

Google also threw a fit and threatened to withdraw its search service from Australia. But it relented after Microsoft offered to replace it with Bing, and comply with the law, in an extraordinary gesture of support for sustaining the free press.

Don't overlook the context. Facebook and Google are widely used because they offer great services. But both have been found to be abusing their dominant positions in ways that harm other companies, industries and consumers.

Those findings prompted Australia's proposal, to require the sites to compensate news organizations.

The Australian Competition & Consumer Commission in 2019 produced an extensive study documenting anti-competitive behavior and calling for multiple policy changes, including new rules for mergers. It sums up the situation well:

"The benefits that digital platforms have brought to consumers and businesses have not come without costs and consequences. It is these costs and consequences that governments must now grapple with, both in Australia and in other countries."

U.S. regulators and policymakers are just a step or two behind, and recently concluded

their own investigations. That includes an October report by the House Judiciary Committee's antitrust subcommittee.

"The Subcommittee's series of hearings produced significant evidence that these firms wield their dominance in ways that erode entrepreneurship, degrade Americans' privacy online, and undermine the vibrancy of the free and diverse press," the House report states. "The result is less innovation, fewer choices for consumers, and a weakened democracy."

That was followed by state and federal antitrust cases filed against Google and Facebook.

The Australia flap should help the U.S. prepare for what's likely to happen next. As investigations lead to antitrust enforcement and policy reforms, forcing tech giants to change their behavior, threats and service disruptions may ensue.

To avoid shocks, elected officials should be sure to communicate early and often what's really happening: Platforms are exploiting their dominance and hurting competition, so enforcement, regulation and policy reforms are required.

Of course the companies will push back. That's disconcerting because their services are valued and have an extraordinary influence on daily life.

But dominant digital platforms must play by the rules and stop harming competitors, the free press and democracy. Bullying and threatening nations only show how much this is needed.

*This editorial was first published in The Seattle Times.*



## The citizenship question

Is U.S. citizenship still worth something?

That is such a grimly disheartening question because of where it came from.

I did not hear it from the usual

**Leo Morris**



only way it can atone for its sins is for those who have been unfairly treated to unfairly treat everybody else.

It came to me from an enthusiastic follower of the Indiana Policy Review, for which I write these columns.

That is an organization dedicated to freedom and the constitutional principles that undergird it. If those who follow that vision are losing faith in the value of their franchise, is there any future left for the country?

There had better be. This country is still the best hope for the world, and to give up on its promise is to give up on all humankind.

America was founded on the single greatest political idea in history: Rights inhere in the individual.

Somewhere between anarchy and tyranny, people have forever tried to find the perfect government, the one that will provide the proper balance of autonomy and dependence. How can we best obtain security and still preserve our liberty?

Until America, the group was always paramount. There were no rights as such, merely privileges that could be granted or withheld to favored or shunned

groups at the whim of an absolute ruler.

Then came our Declaration of Independence and Constitution to lay the foundation for a better way. Each individual person has rights – call them natural or God-given – just by virtue of being human that are beyond the purview of government. In fact, the chief justification for government is to protect those rights.

That is the basis of American Exceptionalism, a point President Obama missed – deliberately, I suspect – when he blithely said something to the effect that, well, all people think their country is exceptional.

America is exceptional because it found the exception to submission to tyranny.

And, yes, its behavior is often not exceptional. It does not always live up to its promise. You can find plenty of complaints from all across the political spectrum. The oligarchy is taking over. Cancel culture is rampant. There is anarchy in the streets. Equality of results has replaced equality of opportunity. Income inequality is out of control. And on and on.

I have my own concerns, especially about the leviathan state. I worry that the federal debt will crush us. It bothers me that the Supreme Court declared my property available for an economic developer with deep pockets, and that the state of Indiana declares the right to take people's possessions by accusing them of crimes they have not even been tried for. It is astonishing that two presidents – Obama and George W. Bush – gave themselves the authority to have any American anywhere killed on their order alone and that there was no national outrage.

But consider: Those are holes

in the only ship of state we have. If we abandon it, to which shore do we swim?

I am proud of some of the things I have done, ashamed of others. I try to take responsibility for my own actions, as all moral people should.

I try to avoid grand pronouncements about things outside my control. I cringe when people say they are ashamed to be an American, and I would never say I am proud to be an American. That is but an accident of birth.

But I am glad to be one. It is gratifying to be a citizen of a country that not only stands for the right thing but acknowledges its failures to live up to its own standards and always tries to do better.

If this nation, founded on the concept of natural rights, gets so many things wrong about freedom, imagine what the world would be like without America's striving as an example. The more mistakes we make, the more we demonstrate how much we are needed.

"For if they do these things in a green tree," it says in Luke 23:31, "what shall be done in the dry?"

I will leave it to the biblical scholars to offer the religious interpretation of that passage. But we can divine a secular meaning.

The world with America is a green tree, still capable of giving and nurturing life. The world without America would be so very, very dry.

*Leo Morris, columnist for The Indiana Policy Review, is winner of the Hoosier Press Association's award for Best Editorial Writer. Morris, as opinion editor of the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, was named a finalist in editorial writing by the Pulitzer Prize committee. Contact him at [leoedits@yahoo.com](mailto:leoedits@yahoo.com).*

# Support FFA members during FFA week and year-round

By BRUCE KETTLER

“FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.” This FFA mission statement is a testament to our members, chapters, advisors and supporters everywhere.

National FFA week started Monday, Feb. 20. It is held annually on the last full week in February. This year it will look unlike any other FFA week, showcasing virtual “events” rather than Blue and Gold filling the school halls or a pancake breakfast made by members for all the teachers. Our more than 12,000 Indiana FFA members have found ways to still make it special, nonetheless.

The celebrations this week will include virtual visits from Indiana FFA State Officers to FFA chapters across the state. Like every year, this FFA week will also include a proclamation from Indiana legislators who are set to recognize the importance of FFA week and supporting our students. FFA students from across the state will also have the opportunity to learn from agriculture leaders about creating opportunities to tell their story in agriculture and to stand up for agricultural practices on the local, state and federal level with four virtual FFA Advocacy days. Even though this FFA week is certain to look unlike any other, these resilient students have found a way to keep FFA traditions alive.

We cannot honor and celebrate National FFA week without remembering former Indiana FFA Association Director Rob Hays, who passed away last summer. Rob embodied everything FFA is and stands for and is dearly missed in our department and throughout the state. Rob was most passionate about building leaders, something that FFA does so well.

The Indiana State Department of Agriculture and Indiana FFA Association believe leadership development and equipping members with the skills they need to succeed at any stage of life is crucial. Recently we partnered with Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch's office to develop Indiana's Rural Road to Recovery plan, designed to get our state back on track following the pandemic. One priority outlined in our rural road to recovery is to strengthen the pipeline of individuals seeking careers in agriculture. FFA is a great way to get students learning and involved in agriculture-related careers.

Many times I have heard it said that FFA members are some of the hardest working, most eager students on a job or in an internship. I am certain that is due in large part to FFA's leadership and learning model along with the positive support from advisors and parents.

I want to encourage businesses and post-secondary educational institutions to take a deeper look into FFA members as they are moving into careers or furthering their education. Beyond leadership skills, FFA members learn so much about agriculture, food science, technology and a variety of other disciplines preparing them for success.

I further encourage business and community leaders to ask themselves how they can promote youth education or support their local FFA chapter. Our local FFA chapters and schools need business participation for events and to expand learning opportunities. This is also a great way to establish a connection with the next generation of community leaders, which could lead to job shadowing or an internship.

FFA members exhibit the value of hard work, education and strong leadership instilled in them from the very beginning of their membership and make excellent additions to any workforce or team. At the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, we feel that firsthand because almost half of our 60 employees were FFA members. During FFA week I encourage others to think when was the last time I volunteered with my local FFA chapter? By working together and supporting the local chapters we can take FFA and Indiana's 12,000 FFA members to the next level.

*Bruce Kettler is the director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture.*

## LETTER

### Commemorating the anniversary of the 1992 Khojaly Massacre

On Feb. 26, Azerbaijani people will solemnly observe the 29th anniversary of the Khojaly Massacre, Europe's first mass atrocity since World War II. On that night in 1992, the Armenian forces, armed by the 366th infantry regiment of the Russian army, attacked the town of Khojaly in the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. Estimated 613 fleeing residents of the town, including 106 women and 63 children, were chased and brutally murdered by the Armenian fighters. Hundreds of civilians went missing, over a thousand received permanent health damage, 1,275 were taken hostage, and over 150 children lost one or both parents.

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, The New York Times, other media outlets and rights watchdogs documented the atrocity. The Armenian field commander, Monte Melkonian, provided a shocking witness account of the “killing fields” near Khojaly in his diary, reproving his fellow fighters of the war crime. Former Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan also admitted that it was an act of revenge against Azerbaijanis. Yet officially, the Armenian government and the Armenian-American interest groups continue denying the atrocity and justice to its victims.

Speaking to the UN General Assembly on the occasion of the Holocaust Remembrance in January 2015, Israeli President Reuven Rivlin highlighted the Khojaly Massacre among the genocidal acts that the international community failed to prevent. The painful memory of Khojaly remains an obstacle for the Armenian-Azerbaijani reconciliation also actively sought by the United States. On this occasion, I join the Azerbaijani-American Council and the community to commemorate the Khojaly Massacre and to support its recognition through public statements.

**Naida Khalilova**  
**Fort Wayne**



## MU's Kelsey Tyler named 2021 HCAC indoor track MVP

Spartans win four individual titles on Saturday

By DILLON BENDER

Junior Kelsey Tyler, from Rochester, was named the 2021 Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Women's Indoor Track MVP after winning a pair of individual conference crowns and helping guide the Manchester University women's indoor track and field team to a runner-up finish at Saturday's conference championships.

Tyler kicked off Saturday's championships by winning the very first event of the day, the 5000 meters, with a leading time of 19:25.17. Fellow teammates Lauren Smith, from Anderson and Lapel High School, and Hannah Brubaker, from Goshen and NorthWood High School, placed second and third in the 5000m with respective times of 19:30.49 and 19:30.72.

Tyler would go on to also win the 3000 meters on Saturday afternoon. Kelsey led the field with a top time of 11:10.97. Tyler would add a fourth-place finish in the mile as well, crossing the tape with a time of 5:37.74.

Hannah Brubaker added an individual title in the mile run. Brubaker led Sat-



Junior Kelsey Tyler, from Rochester, was named the 2021 HCAC Women's Indoor Track MVP.

urday's field with a time of 5:32.48. Lauren Smith added a third-place finish in the mile with a time of 5:36.84.

Lauren Smith took home the fourth individual crown for the Black and Gold on Saturday, taking top honors in the 800-meter run. Smith beat out Franklin College's Angelina Gregory by just one-tenth of a second – 2:31.79 to 2:31.89.

Manchester added a runner-up podium finish in the 4-x-400 relay. The team consisting of Brooke

Bouwens, Syndey Young, Morgan Chupp, and Adelle Stanko posted a final time of 4:33.21.

Other notable podium finishes included junior Erica Mohr's, from Payne, Ohio and Wayne Trace High School, a third-place finish in the weight throw. Mohr posted a final mark of 13.36m (43' 10"). The 4-x-200 relay team of Brooke Bouwens, Elizabeth Russell, Kendal Garringer, and Adelle Stanko earned a third-place finish follow-

ing a final time of 1:56.81. Garringer would also add a third-place finish in the high jump on Saturday.

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology took home the top team honors on Saturday with 189 points. Manchester earned 137 points – the highest team total in at least eight years – to claim a runner-up team finish. Hanover placed third with 100 points.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

## Black and Gold honor trio of seniors

Spartans shot 50 percent from the floor and drained 14 three-pointers

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University men's basketball team honored its three seniors before Friday night's game against Franklin.

The Black and Gold honored Cortiz Buckner, CJ Hampton, and Matt Westman with a small, on-court ceremony before Friday's game.

Once the ball was tipped, the visiting Grizzlies and host Spartans engaged in a fast-paced contest that saw

Franklin outgun Manchester 88-76.

The Grizzlies were difficult to stop as Franklin connected on 32 of its 57 field goal attempts on Friday night – good for a 56.1 percent clip. FC also shot 9-of-16 (56.3 percent) from three-point territory and went 15-of-18 (83.3 percent) from the free-throw line.

Manchester was able to keep pace with the Grizzlies, however, the Black and Gold were never quite

able to fully overcome Franklin on Friday night. The Spartans shot 50 percent (28-56) from the floor and drained 14 three-pointers.

Franklin held a 34-24 advantage in the rebounding department and converted 13 Spartan turnovers into 17 points.

Freshman Brandon Christlieb, from Ashely and Prairie Heights High School, led MU with 22 points. Christlieb finished Friday's game 6-of-9 from beyond the three-point arc. Seniors CJ Hampton, from Hammond and Griffith High School, and Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jef-

erson High School, both scored 13 points. Hampton added eight rebounds while Buckner dished out four assists.

Jackson Jannsen, from Carmel, added 11 points while Matt Westman, from Michigan City, chipped in 10 points and five rebounds.

Ty Wright led five Grizzlies in double figures with 20 points.

Manchester and Franklin met Saturday on the campus of Franklin College. Game time between the Spartans and Grizzlies was scheduled for 5 p.m.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

## Manchester men's hoops wrap up regular season slate with a road victory at Franklin

HCAC will unveil its 2021 Tournament bracket on Sunday

By DILLON BENDER

A new day meant another new opportunity for the Manchester University men's basketball team. Manchester wrapped up its regular-season schedule with a 69-61 road victory at Franklin College on Satur-

day, Feb. 20.

A day after Franklin topped the Spartans 88-76 in Stauffer-Wolfe Arena on the strength of 56.1 percent shooting, the Black and Gold clamped down defensively and limited FC to just 36.7 percent (22-60) shooting in Saturday's contest. Manchester also held the Grizzlies to just 20 percent (4-20) shooting from the three-point territory on their home floor.

Manchester led 21-20 at

the half. Both teams combined to score 89 points following the intermission.

Freshman Brandon Christlieb, from Ashley and Prairie Heights High School, led Manchester University in scoring for the second consecutive night, scoring 18 points. Christlieb finished 7-16 from the floor and 4-9 from downtown. Cortiz Buckner, from Lafayette and Lafayette Jefferson High School, chipped in 13 points and five rebounds off

the bench. Matt Westman, from Michigan City, added 12 points and six boards.

Sam Gutierrez led Franklin with 18 points.

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) will unveil its 2021 HCAC Tournament bracket on Sunday, Feb. 28. All 10 HCAC teams will qualify for this year's conference tournament.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

## Franklin powers past Manchester on Friday

Tiara Jackson led MU with 11 points and seven rebounds

By DILLON BENDER

The visiting Franklin College Grizzlies powered past Manchester 57-32 in women's basketball action on Friday, Feb. 19.

Franklin's ball pressure made things difficult on the Spartans in Friday's contest. The Grizzlies forced 28 turnovers and converted those 28 turnovers into 22 points. Manchester was also hard-pressed to convert clean

looks at the basket, shooting 12-48 (25 percent) from the field. Franklin's defense also held the Spartans to just 1-15 (6.7 percent) shooting from three-point territory.

Tiara Jackson, from East Chicago and Central High School, led MU with 11 points and seven rebounds. Jackson also blocked two shots.

Manchester and Franklin met again Saturday afternoon at Franklin. Game time between the Spartans and Grizzlies was scheduled for 3 p.m.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

## Women's hoops conclude the regular season with a road contest at Franklin

Grizzlies defended their home floor, topping MU by a final score of 69-57

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University women's basketball team concluded the regular season portion of its schedule on Saturday afternoon with a road rematch with the Franklin College Grizzlies.

Host Franklin defended its home floor, topping Manchester by a final score of 69-57.

Franklin got 16 and 14 points, respectively, from forwards Destinee Cross and Bayleigh Torrance on Saturday. The Grizzlies shot 40 percent (24-60) from the floor. Franklin also made 19 of its 31 attempts at the free-throw line.

Manchester finished shooting 20-51 (39.2 percent) for the game and made 12-of-19 free throw attempts (63.2 percent). The Black and Gold got 16 points and five rebounds from Bridget Nash, from Carmel and Bishop Chatard High School. Tiara Jackson, from East Chicago and Central High School, tallied another double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

Hannah Lindsey, from Speedway, and Abby Walker, from Oswego, Illinois, and Cloverdale High School, each added eight points off the bench.

The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference will unveil its 2021 HCAC Tournament bracket. All 10 HCAC teams will qualify for this year's conference tournament.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

## MU Volleyball honors senior class on Saturday

Rachel Ressler, from Tipton, served eight aces that afternoon

By DILLON BENDER

The Manchester University volleyball team honored its five seniors during Saturday's doubleheader against Transylvania University.

The Black and Gold honored Alexandria Collins, Mackenzie Rooks, Lauren Gandhi, Hailey Rivard, and Grace Ondrla with a small, on-court ceremony in between the first and second match of Saturday's doubleheader.

The visiting Pioneers won both matches on Saturday in straight sets.

■ **Match 1:** Transylvania defeated Manchester 3-0 (25-23, 25-17, 25-16)

■ **Match 2:** Transylvania defeated Manchester 3-0 (25-15, 25-18, 25-13)

The Spartans nearly overcame a 9-point deficit in the

first set to begin Saturday's doubleheader.

Following a close call in the first set, 25-23, Transylvania sharpened its play en route to a pair of straight-set victories.

Samantha Campbell, from Brownsburg, continued her consistent play, leading the Black and Gold with 18 kills on the day. Campbell is hitting a team-best .208 this season.

Jordan Holland, from Osceola and Mishawaka High School, and Lauren Gandhi, from Westfield and Guerin Catholic High School, collected 19 and 14 assists, respectively.

Rachel Ressler, from Tipton, served eight aces on the afternoon.

Manchester concluded the 2020-21 season with a home doubleheader against Anderson University on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The first serve against the Ravens was scheduled for 6 p.m.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*



Mike Ehrmann / Getty Images / TNS

Tiger Woods hits his tee shot on the 15th hole during the final round of the PNC Championship at the Ritz Carlton Golf Club on Dec. 20, 2020.

## Tiger Woods suffers leg injuries after car crash

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Golf star Tiger Woods suffered leg injuries Tuesday in a vehicle rollover in suburban Los Angeles and was undergoing surgery, authorities and his manager said.

Woods was alone in the vehicle and had to be extricated from it, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said in a statement. No other cars were involved in the wreck that injured the golfer.

An ambulance took Woods to a hospital in serious condition, authorities said.

"Tiger Woods was in a single-car accident this morn-

ing in California where he suffered multiple leg injuries," said his manager, Mark Steinberg. "He is currently in surgery and we thank you for your privacy and support."

A KABC-TV helicopter over the wreck showed a car on its side, with its front end heavily damaged just off the side of a road near a hillside. The air bags appeared to be deployed.

There was a second crash when a vehicle that had apparently stopped to help Woods got hit, said Christopher Thomas, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Fire Department. That wreck

was very minor, and no one was hurt.

Woods' crash occurred shortly before 7:15 a.m. about 20 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, on the border of the upscale communities of Rolling Hills Estates and Rancho Palos Verdes, officials said.

Woods was in Los Angeles over the weekend as the tournament host of the Genesis Invitational at Riviera, where he presented the trophy. He was to spend Monday and Tuesday filming with Discovery-owned GOLFTV, with whom he has an endorsement contract. A

tweet Monday showed him in a cart smiling with comedian David Spade.

According to Golf Digest, the TV shoot was on-course lessons to celebrities, such as Spade and Dwyane Wade. He did not play.

The 15-time major champion last played Dec. 20 in the PNC Championship with his 11-year-old son, Charlie.

This is the third time Woods has been involved in a car investigation. The most notorious was the early morning after Thanksgiving in 2009, when his SUV ran over a fire hydrant and hit a tree.



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